

Budget Squeeze?

Find a Gold Mine in Your Utility Budget

By Megan Castle, PIO
Governor’s Office of Energy Management and Conservation

Faced with shrinking budgets and never-ending needs to improve and upgrade facilities, many state facilities directors have found a way to free-up utility dollars and invest them in capital improvements. Energy cost savings can be used to pay for the entire cost of energy-saving projects through an innovative approach called energy performance contracting, where an energy service company guarantees that annual energy cost savings will exceed annual lease-purchase payments on energy-saving equipment, eliminating the need to dip into capital budgets. “While funds for capital construction grow scarce, performance contracting offers a huge, untapped source of funds. Millions of dollars otherwise paid to utility companies over the next decade can, instead, be invested in energy-saving improvements,” says Rick Grice, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Energy Management and Conservation (EOMC).

In the past few months, many state agencies, colleges and universities have initiated performance contracts that promise to deliver over \$50 million in facility improvements. The Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA) leads the way in state agencies, where the state capitol and surrounding buildings will benefit from improved lighting and upgraded heating and cooling systems. The Department of Human Services just selected an energy service company and the Department of Corrections will soon do the same. A number of higher education facilities are using this approach including the University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, University of Colorado at Denver, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and the Housing Division of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

In late 1999, Governor Owens recognized the state facilities that pioneered the use of performance contracting in the state and said, “I view energy performance contracting as a smart way to improve building efficiency and a wise way to reduce taxpayer costs to operate these facilities.” These included the Department of Military Affairs, Western State College, Auraria Higher Education Center, Adams State College, the University of Southern Colorado and the Recreation Center at the University of Colorado in Boulder, totaling over \$8 million in energy-saving projects. Owens added, “Performance contracting also is a great example of how the public and private sectors team up to leverage local energy expertise and reap the benefits of better buildings with no up-front costs.”

Energy-saving equipment not only pays for itself, but also provides many other benefits. State employees will appreciate improved year-round comfort provided by new heating, cooling and temperature control systems. Facilities staff will enjoy the opportunity to replace antiquated equipment with new technologies, getting rid of long-standing maintenance problems and getting advanced training on modern, high-tech systems. Colorado’s struggle with the drought will be eased since water savings can pay for water-saving fixtures. During this time of budget concerns, performance contracting enables the state to optimize use of its utility dollars. “Performance contracting offers a way to expand limited capital dollars and reduce the backlog of budget requests to improve facilities,” said Larry Friedberg, State Architect, Director of State Buildings & Real Estate Programs, DPA.

OEMC and DPA’s State Buildings and Real Estate Programs work in partnership to provide information, guidelines and technical services to help state facilities engage in performance contracts. With experienced staff, professional consultants, a network of energy professionals, and partners in national organizations, OEMC and State Buildings offer a large range of services in energy efficiency. For more information contact Linda Smith, OEMC, at 303-894-2383 or Larry Friedberg, State Buildings, at 303-866-3079.

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The classification system should be structured to encourage the acquisition of the ever-expanding breadth of knowledge and experience that is required of many professionals, who can be rewarded with a career path that recognizes this progression.

Many science professionals are truly passionate about their careers. The quota of 3 employees should not be the determining factor for promotions and upgrades. Additionally, it is not fair practice for some of these professionals to be ‘work leaders’ over two other professionals. The ‘work leader’ is not recognized by HR, KRONOS, or when a significant issue arises. The work leader is not paid for ‘supervision’, but is usually required to perform supervision functions, including paperwork, hiring, and performance evaluations. The current system is very outdated and quite demoralizing.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my opinion.

Carol Stanton
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TRAVEL CARD NEWS

CARDHOLDER AGREEMENTS

Any state employee holding a US Bank VISA travel card must sign a cardholder agreement. This agreement protects both the cardholder and your agency. In effect, the cardholder is agreeing to use the card for official business only and the State agency or institution obligates itself to be liable for all charges that are official business that have not been reimbursed to the cardholder. Parallel agreements are required of those that hold US Bank Event Cards with corporate liability. Details can be found on the travel web site for the Division of Central Services in the Department of Personnel & Administration – www.state.co.us/gov_dir/gss/cen/travel1/stmp/usbank_trans.htm.

ANNUAL STATE EMPLOYEES’ GOLF TOURNAMENT

This year’s Colorado State Employee’s Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, August 16, at Buffalo Run Golf Course in Commerce City. It is a one-day individual tournament with different flights based on handicap or average score. The cost is \$85.00 per player; which includes greens fees, carts, food and prizes. The deadline for entries is August 5, 2003. For information or an application contact Dan Daly at 303-866-5821 or Ken Doby at 303-866-7120.

ATTEND WILDLIFE WATCH FREE

Wildlife Watch is a wildlife viewing skills workshop. **State employees and family members** (adults and children over 12) are invited to attend any workshop **free of charge!** Participants need to register for Wildlife Watch online or by phone. The workshop dates, times and places are detailed on both the Web site and phone line. When you sign-up, be sure to let us know that you are a state employee and tell us how many are coming.

Register online at www.wildlifewatch.net
or by phone: 303- 291-7250

Stateside

MattHolman

After the last cow left town, Slim and Clyde needed something to rustle.